

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, District No. 7
Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Standing Committee of Berkeley Council, met on Monday, January 14, 2002, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:20 p.m.

Present: Chairman; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex-officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk to County Council.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and copy of Agenda of this Committee meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers, the News media, and interested citizens.

Chairman Pinckney called the meeting to order and asked the Committee's pleasure on the Approval of Minutes for Human Services Meeting held on November 19, 2001.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Farley to approve the minutes for November 19, 2001. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Pinckney stated that on the agenda was the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, year-end-review. He asked Ms. Celia Eade come forward to give an update on the shelter.

Ms. Eade, President of the SPCA, introduced the Board Members for the year 2002 as follows: Anther Willis, Treasurer; Angela Beck, Vice President; Jennifer Tanner, Secretary; and Amy Savage, Member At Large. She asked their Staff to stand and stated they were a hardworking bunch of people; also, she asked their support team to stand. The Support Team

consisted of many different rescuers. She stated they had been in operation for eight months and it has not been easy. Things they have seen and experienced over this period of time have been gut wrenching.

At this time Ms. Eade had some of the members of the SPCA show pictures of the animals to members of the Committee.

Councilmember Spooner asked were these animals taken in at the Shelter? Ms. Eade stated they see this everyday and some of the pictures are better than some they have seen.

Ms. Eade stated that during the summer months they were inundated with animals; however, it has eased over the last few months. They certainly view this as a learning experience. She stated they had been through personnel issues that have led to a change in key personnel. They have noticed a great boost in the moral of their staff since the changes were made. Ms. Eade stated they have had some complaints but have taken the appropriate actions. The SPCA understands that a shelter is highly scrutinized and they will always try their hardest to resolve any issue that comes up. She stated their bills are up to date and their taxes are paid. Adoption and private rescues are doing well and they have surrounded themselves with a support team that is literally growing everyday. Ms. Eade stated their leaders are strong and their staff is happy and they are still dedicated to the mission at hand.

Ms. Eade stated the shelter has become inadequate for the number of animals that Berkeley County is seeing. It is impossible to house their quarantine, court cases, and legal hold in the same building with adoptable animals because it places those animals at risk. They recently housed 45 cats for over two months that were held for a court case. These cats had to be separated from all other animals at the facility. Because of incidents such as this and their overcrowding predicament they have made some necessary changes. The most recent being that all adoptable animals are sent to their Goose Creek location. The Shelter will now be used for reclaim, recovery and rescue. Since this change on December 1, they have seen an overall improvement in the health of their adoptable animals. In addition the Staff has had much more time to notify and coordinate private animal rescues, tend to the recovery of sick animals, and evaluate them for future adoptions. She stated last month they stopped public adoptions from the shelter but did it from the adoption center. They did 41 private animal rescues; they did 59 public adoptions at the shelter.

Ms. Eade presented a comparison chart to the Committee. Supervisor Rozier stated this was for the last six months of when the County ran the shelter compared with the last two months of 2001 when the SPCA took over. The County does the pickups and some are turned in to the shelter. Ms. Eade stated Berkeley County, Hanahan, and Goose Creek Animal Control, does the majority of the intakes. The others are owner turn-ins and people who come in with strays they have found.

Ms. Eade stated the total intake for the County in the year 2000 was 4,877 and 5,123 for the SPCA, which is an increase of five percent. The County did 733 adoptions during that period; the SPCA did 987, which was a 35 percent increase. The County euthanized 3,529

animals; the SPCA did 2,229, which was lowered by 37 percent. Ms. Eade stated this was their first year and she feels those numbers speak for themselves. She stated the upcoming year is exciting for them. They would install a new computer program this month to help run the business more efficiently; next month they would sign a contract expanding their Adoption Center and gaining 1600 square feet of space. They would also be publishing a quarterly newsletter, which would increase their membership and further their public awareness campaign. The SPCA would participate in a number of community events this year.

Ms. Eade stated they are proud of their accomplishments they have made in this short period of time and they hope that everyone would join them as they promote animal welfare through education and awareness campaigns during the year of 2002.

Councilmember Mims stated the presentation they made eight months ago stipulated the animals could be adopted from the animal shelter as well as Goose Creek, why was that changed? Supervisor Rozier stated he suggested that the animals be adopted from Goose Creek instead because the healthy animals could be separated from the unhealthy animals. Since they have gone basically to Goose Creek, this is the first time there had ever been over 200 adopted in one month. The main objective is to adopt animals and give them good homes.

Councilmember Richardson asked what was meant by stopping the public adoptions? Ms. Eade stated that if the public comes into the shelter for adoption, they are sent to the Adoption Center. If they see something they like in the recovery room and it is ready to be adopted, they would adopt them at Cypress Gardens' shelter facility. The SPCA in Goose Creek is a place where animals are better showcased, it's more eye pleasing, centrally located, and is only a few miles from the shelter.

Chairman Pinckney asked in reference to the statement about the public being able to adopt from the recovery shelter, does that mean the public would have an opportunity to walk through the shelter? Ms. Eade stated she never turns down people if they are truly interested in seeing the shelter. However, there are legal hold and quarantine cases for DHEC that should not be viewed by the public; they are not up for adoption, they are waiting for their owners to come back where they have bitten some one, and it's dangerous in certain areas of the shelter to let public walk through.

Councilmember Davis asked was the euthanizing done at Cypress Gardens' shelter and was it contracted? Ms. Eade stated they have three euthanasia technicians and are in the process of certifying their fourth, and it's all done by the SPCA.

Ms. Eade introduced the Director of the SPCA, Ms. Pearl Sutton, and asked her to come forward.

Ms. Pearl Sutton introduced herself and stated she was proud to be the new Executive Director of the BCSPCA.

“Many of you may already know me, as I have resided in Berkeley County for most of my life. First moving to Berkeley County in 1968. I moved to St. Augustine Fla. In 1970 where I met and married my husband of 31 years. I began my career in animal care, while living there. I worked for 5 years as a Veterinary Assistant for Dr. Steven Wilson at St. Augustine Animal Clinic. Upon returning to Berkeley County in 1980, I went to work for Dr. Thomas Dantzler at Goose Creek Veterinary Clinic. I worked for Dr. Dantzler for 18 years, from 1980 until 1998. During my employment with Dr. Dantzler I was fortunate to be able to broaden my knowledge of Veterinary medicine and to gain vast knowledge of the day-to-day operation of a small business. I attended numerous classes and seminars on animal nutrition and marketing. I worked closely with clients promoting all areas of client education. I also was able to work with several area schools, periodically going into classrooms and giving presentations on many subjects pertaining to animal health care and welfare. When Dr. Dantzler retired in 1998, I decided to pursue a different line of work. I went to work for Orthodontist, Dr. Fred Gunter, as Patient Coordinator and Sterilization Tech. I enjoyed my work but within a year I felt a void and I missed my work with animals. Dr. Mary Wall was establishing a new Veterinary Clinic on Johns Island and I had worked with Dr. Wall when she had done relief work for Dr. Dantzler. Dr. Wall asked me to join her in her new practice. I worked closely with her to establish the Neuter-Spay not slay group, still in existence on Johns Island. After working with Dr. Wall slightly over a year my father was diagnosed with bone cancer. My father needed my love and support during this difficult time so I resigned my position to care for him. After my father passed away I was able to return to work. I took a position as manager at Dr. Paul Kerwins newly opened Boarding Kennel in Goose Creek, ‘Goose Creek Bed and Biscuit.’ Upon learning of the need of a Director at the BCSPCA, I applied knowing I could make a difference. During my short time at the SPCA I have been able to work with 14 different animal rescue organizations including U.S. Customs. Many of these groups rescuing multiple animals, thus giving others a chance for adoption. One of my goals as the Director of the BCSPCA will be to focus on the education and the importance of controlling the overwhelming number of stray and abandoned animals in Berkeley County. This starts by teaching the importance of spaying and neutering. I have already made contacts with several elementary school teachers who have agreed to allow their classrooms to participate in Adopt-A- Pet fundraisers. Many changes are taking place, the Adoption center is expanding, all animals are being vaccinated upon arrival, needed repairs to the runs are being made. Because it is imperative additional runs will be added in the immediate future. Dr. Paul Kerwin will be working closely with me to establish a hospital room at the shelter where we will be able to perform routine health tests and screening. We are discussing as one of our goals a spay-neuter clinic in Berkeley County. I am excited about the future of the BCSPCA and hope all of you will be too.”

Councilmember Crosby asked The Honorable Thomas Dantzler, SC House of Representatives, to stand and be recognized. Dr. Dantzler indicated he was there to support to Ms. Sutton.

The presentation was taken as information.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Spooner to adjourn. The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

April 8, 2002
Date Approved

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A Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on Monday January 14, 2002, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the meeting of the Committee on Community Services and the Committee on Justice and Public Safety, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee on Human Services

November 19, 2001

1. Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals year-end review.

January 9, 2002
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council